

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 4 have been amended. Specifically, missing label 112 has been added to N2 in FIG. 1A, label 116 applied to N2 has been amended to become label 112 in FIG. 1B, label 118 applied to N3 has been amended to become label 114 in FIG. 1B, and label 420 has been added to the block reading “IDENTIFY ADJACENT NODE AS PART OF COMMUNICATION PATH” in FIG. 4.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 18-30 are cancelled. Claims 31-36 are added. Claims 11-17 and 31-36 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application.

DRAWINGS

The drawings have been amended to correct deficiencies noted in the Office Action. Corrected drawings for FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, FIG. 3, and FIG. 4 are submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully submit that the corrected drawings remedy all deficiencies noted in the Office Action.

SPECIFICATION

The Office Action objected to the disclosure for several reasons. First, the Office Action objected to the sentence on page 12, lines 7-8. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of the specification in this reply remedies this informality.

Second, the Office Action objected to the definition of a “path disclosure set” on page 7, paragraph [0034]. Specifically, the Office Action contended that the following text in the definition was inconsistent with other parts of the disclosure: “the path closure set represents a subset of nodes in the network topology that can form part of a non-looping path between the source node and the destination node.” The Office Action claimed that this text implies that the set of nodes in the path closure set does not include any node that forms a loop.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited definition does not imply this in any way. The definition indicates that nodes in the set **can** form part of a non-looping path, not that they all **must**. Although the definition indicates that at least **some** nodes in the set **can** form part of a

non-looping path, the definition does **not** require that the set exclude all combinations of nodes that might somehow form a looping path. Some of the nodes in the set, combined in the right way, might very well form a looping path. However, this possibility does not conflict with the definition; at least some of the nodes in the set still can form a non-looping path.

For at least the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the definition of a “path closure set” on page 7, paragraph [0034], is consistent with the remainder of the specification.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

The Office Action objected to Claim 30 because of an informality. Claim 30 is canceled by this reply, thereby obviating the rejection of Claim 30.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112

Claims 5-8 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, allegedly, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 5-8 and 25-26 are canceled by this reply, thereby obviating the rejections of those claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

Claims 1-10 and 18-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable, allegedly, in view of various combinations of cited references. Claims 1-10 and 18-30 are canceled by this reply, thereby obviating the rejections of those claims.

The Examiner noted, on pages 19-20 of the Office Action, that certain features of Claims 7 and 8 could not be found in the prior art. These features have been incorporated into new claims, Claims 31-36.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that Claims 11-17 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for this.

Claims 31-36, which are added by this reply, recite features that the Examiner indicated could not be found in the prior art. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 31-36 are patentable over all of the cited references, taken individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

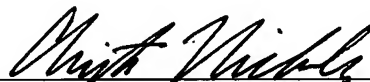
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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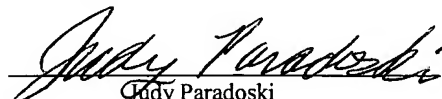
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on July 18, 2005

by


Gddy Paradoski